

William Kamkwamba

The boy who harnessed the wind



William Kamkwamba is a Malawian inventor and author. He gained fame in his country when, in 2002, he built a windmill to power a few electrical appliances in his family's house using blue gum trees, bicycle parts, and materials collected in a local scrapyards.

This picture shows the parts he used to make his first windmill.

What parts can you spot?



Bicycle
Frame

Tools

Bicycle Wheel

Blue Gum Poles

Tractor Fan

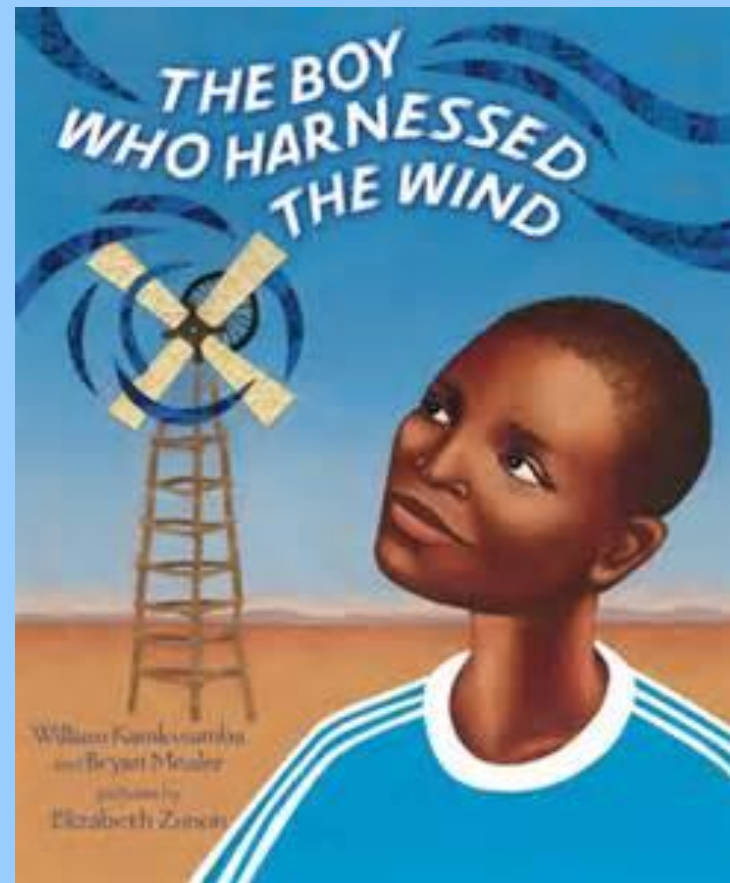
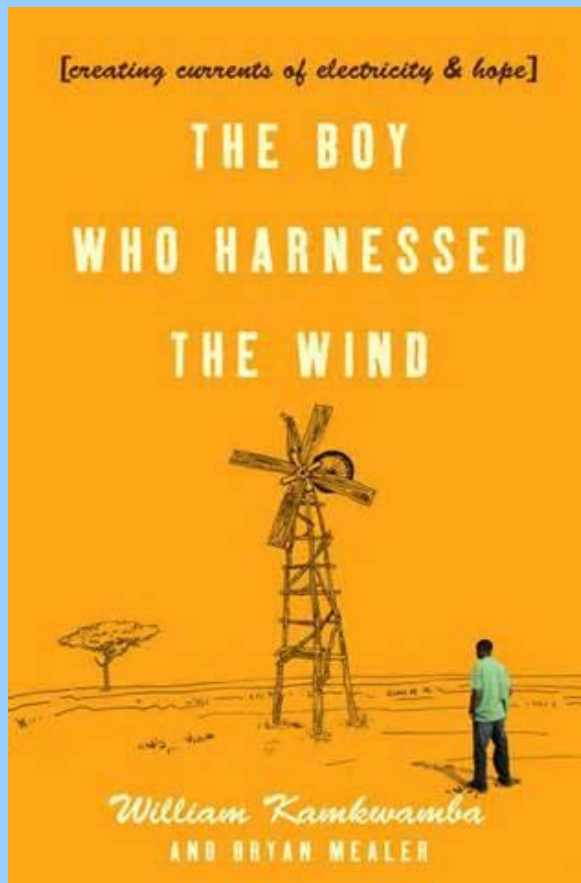
William's First Windmill



William's story came to the attention of Malawian newspapers and spread through the internet. He was invited to do a 'TED' (Technology, Entertainment, Design) talk in 2007 to tell his story to like minded scientist and visionaries.



With the help of Bryan Mealer, William wrote two books telling the world about how and why he built his windmill.



My family and I visited William's house when we went to Malawi. Although William was not there (he is currently studying in USA), we were able to meet his family.



Sisters

Father

Uncle



My son Alan,
spoke to
William's
grandmother ...



... and his friend, Geoffrey.



Geoffrey helped William to build his windmill.

William's sister showed us his first windmill. This windmill is no longer in use.





These three windmills stand in William's back yard and create power to charge the battery unit shown below.





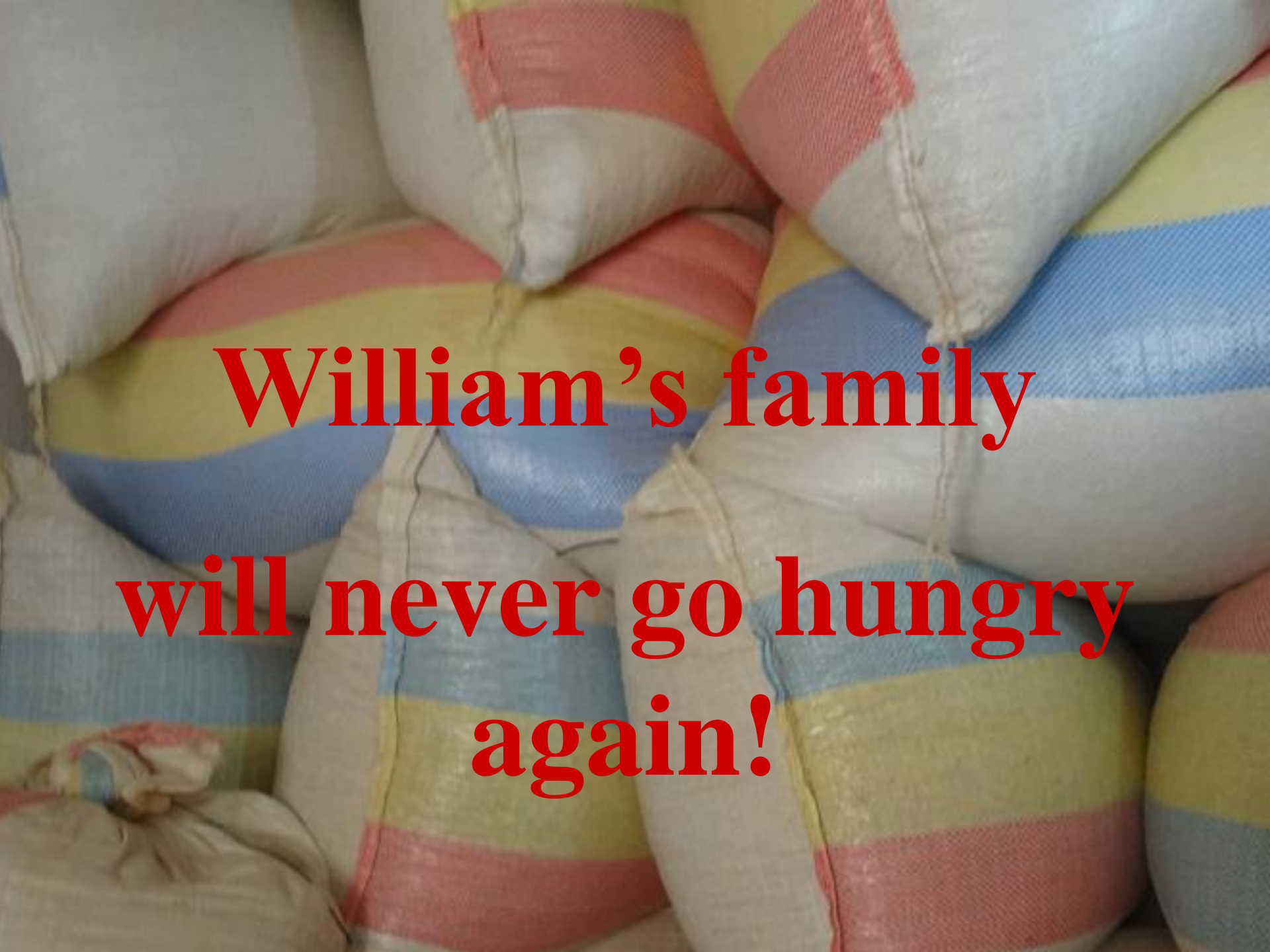
The battery provides electricity in the house.



This picture shows William's first light switch – hand made, using pieces of plastic!

He uses solar power to pump water to the fields which irrigates the crops.





**William's family
will never go hungry
again!**

But it doesn't end there ...



William's uncle explained how manure is used to obtain methane gas ...

... for cooking!



Traditional Malawi methods of cooking.



We did a lesson at Kajendere School about William Kamkwamba.





Mr. Munthali showed the children pictures of William's windmills.



The children made pinwheels ...



... and held them up to the wind!

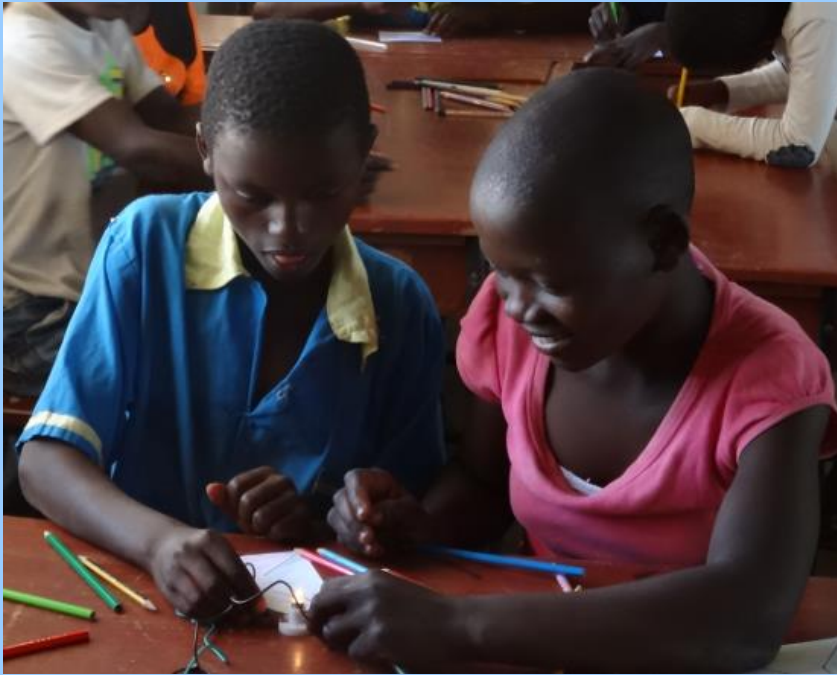


The teachers worked together to explain how a dynamo works.



The children were eager to learn how to make an electric circuit to light a bulb.





William Kamkwamba

an inspiration to us all!

